

REMARKS

Applicant submits this Amendment in reply to the Office Action dated January 12, 2006.

By this Amendment, Applicant has amended claims 1, 9, and 15. The originally-filed specification, drawings, and claims fully support the amendments to claims 1, 9, and 15. No new matter has been introduced.

Claims 1-20 remain pending in this application. Claims 1, 9, and 15 are the sole independent claims. Applicant appreciates the Examiner's courteous efforts to advance prosecution during the February 28, 2006 personal interview. During the interview, independent claims 1, 9, and 15 were discussed with respect to the applied prior art of record.

On pages 2-7 of the Office Action, claims 1-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by United States Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0182212 to Moscone et al. ("Moscone"). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Moscone, however, fails to render independent claims 1, 9, and 15, as amended, unpatentable for several reasons. For instance, independent claim 1 recites a combination of steps that includes, among other things:

- providing to a plurality of customers access to said postings via a business agreement with the provider;
- linking the plurality of customers to said business venture assets;
- combining the business venture assets with the plurality of linked customers to create at least one new business; and

- negotiating between the plurality of linked customers for an equity stake in the at least one new business.

Moscone discloses receiving business information at a server and calculating business information based on previously entered information in order to generate a plurality of reports based on the received information. Moscone later validates the received information contained in the generated reports and stores both the information and reports in a database. See Moscone at page 1, paragraph [0005]. Moscone, however, fails to disclose or suggest the steps of:

- providing to a plurality of customers access to said postings via a business agreement with the provider;
- linking the plurality of customers to said business venture assets;
- combining the business venture assets with the plurality of linked customers to create at least one new business; and
- negotiating between the plurality of linked customers for an equity stake in the at least one new business.

Moscone, thus cannot anticipate independent claim 1, as required by 35 U.S.C. § 102.

Moscone similarly fails to render independent claim 9 unpatentable. Independent claim 9 recites another compilation of steps that includes, *inter alia*:

- providing to a plurality of customers access to said postings via a business agreement with the provider;
- linking the plurality of customers to said business venture assets; and
- combining the business venture assets with the plurality of linked customers to create at least one new business.

Moscone fails to disclose or suggest any of these steps. As a result, Moscone cannot anticipate independent claim 9.

Finally, Moscone fails to render independent claim 15 unpatentable. Claim 15 recites, among other things:

- providing to a plurality of customers access to said postings via a business agreement with the provider;
- linking the plurality of customers to said business venture assets; and
- combining the business venture assets with the plurality of linked customers to create at least one new business, wherein each of the linked customers negotiate for an equity stake in the at least one new business.

None of these steps are present in the Moscone patent disclosure. Since Moscone fails to disclose or suggest these steps, it cannot anticipate independent claim 15.

For at least these reasons, independent claims 1, 9, and 15 are allowable over the prior art of record. Moreover, claims 2-8, 10-14, and 16-20 each depend upon one of the independent claims 1, 9, and 15, respectively, and are therefore allowable for at least the same reasons that each respective independent claim is allowable. In addition, at least some of the dependent claims recite unique combinations that are neither taught nor suggested by the cited reference, and therefore at least some are also separately patentable.

In light of the foregoing remarks, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Moscone is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and reexamination of this application and the timely allowance of the pending claims 1-20.

The Office Action contains characterizations of the claims and the related art with which Applicant does not necessarily agree. Unless expressly noted otherwise, Applicant declines to subscribe to any statement or characterization in the Office Action.

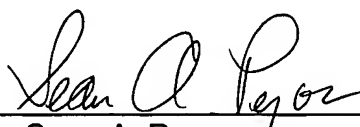
In discussing the specification, claims, or drawings in this Amendment, it is to be understood that Applicant is in no way intending to limit the scope of the claims to any exemplary embodiments described in the specification and/or shown in the drawings. Rather, Applicant is entitled to have the claims interpreted broadly, to the maximum extent permitted by statute, regulation, and applicable case law.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW,
GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

Dated: April 12, 2006

By: 
Sean A. Pryor
Reg. No. 48,103